

# INFORMATION REPORT      INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Evidence of Drought in Kwangtung	DATE DISTR.	16 June 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED			25X1
DATE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE    APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

Comment. The statements below on a drought are incidental to descriptions of anti-Communist manifestations, indicating that blame for the drought conditions was a basic cause for the dislike of the regime.

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### Meih sien (N 24-13, E 116-13) Area

1. Prior to 19 April 1955 the weather had been very dry. There was not enough rain for the spring plowing, and one-half of the land was not planted.<sup>1</sup>
2. A "jingle" currently heard in the area suggested that the government did not provide a needed dam.
3. There were only three light rainfalls from February to 10 April. labor had been organized for an irrigation ditch from Sungyuan (N 24-44, E 116-25) to Hsiangtung (N 24-54, E 116-20). About one thousand mou would benefit from the ditch, which was to be about 20 li long.<sup>2</sup> The cadres were to control the water outlets and were to charge four, five, and six fen per mou for three planting seasons respectively.
4. By 23 March only the valley land was not entirely dried up. There had been no rain from August 1954 to February 1955.
5. Prior to 22 April the river was only knee deep; one thousand junks had not moved during a six-months period.

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### Hsingning (N 24-04, E 115-49) Area

6. By 18 April the farmers were using the excuse of no rain to give up agriculture. From August to 19 March, there had been no rain and no spring plowing.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC			
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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K'aip'ing (N 22-31, E 112-32) Area

7. By 28 March there had been a long drought and not enough rain for the spring plowing.

Huahsien (N 21-31, E 110-39) Area

8. From August to 11 March there had been no rain and most of the wells were dry.

Comments

1. [redacted] drought and famine had struck at least two southern provinces in Communist China. All parts of Kwangtung were said to have been caught in a drought with a complete cessation of planting. Rationing had been stepped up, and ration cuts were becoming so severe that the populace was complaining. [redacted] on 3 April, the harvest of winter crops in Kwangtung was said to have been damaged by drought and frost. [redacted] observed many places so dry that spring planting had not yet begun. 25X1
2. [redacted] the It'ing irrigation ditch was being constructed by farmers of Hsiaooh'i and Wuhsing in Sungyuan Ch'u, Meihsien. This irrigation ditch will be approximately 2,000 meters long. [redacted] the construction of the first water-pumping station in Meihsien was completed on 6 March. This station can irrigate 1,000 mou (approximately 166.6 acres) of farm land in Meichiung, Lungp'ing, and Tali. 25X1

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